

Message Text

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FOR: IOP/M, ILA

E.O. 11652: N/A

1. HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS RECEIVING VERY HEAVY COVERAGE FOR FOREIGN NEWS IN NICARAGUAN MEDIA. RADIO, PRESS AND TV DRAWING EXTENSIVELY ON WIRE SERVICE REPORTS WITH LITTLE EDITORIAL COMMENTARY.

2. NICARAGUAN OPPOSITION LA PRENSA HAS GIVEN STORY HEAVIEST COVERAGE OF ANY MEDIA, RUNNING SEVEN IMPEACHMENT-RELATED ARTICLES ON JULY 28 AND FOUR ON JULY 29. SAMPLE HEADLINE TREATMENT: JULY 28 PAGE 1 SIX-COLUMN "NIXON GUILTY BY VOTE 27-11" OVER AP STORY; JULY 28 PAGE 3 FULL EIGHT COLUMN HEAD OVER AP STORY "DEMOCRATS LIMITED DEBATE TO AVOID DILATORY TACTICS;" JULY 29 FULL TOP PAGE ONE HEAD "WHITE HOUSE: NIXON'S FUTURE UNCERTAIN" OVER AP CABLE.

3. SOMOZA-OWNED NOVEDADES HAS GIVEN STORY MUCH LESS COVERAGE. TWO STORIES APPEARED JULY 28 AND ONE JULY 29. SAMPLE HEADLINE: JULY 28 PAGE 1 OVER EFE STORY "NIXON IMPEACHMENT APPROVED."

4. ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT TO DATE APPEARED IN JULY 29 EDITION INDEPENDENT EL CENTROAMERICANO (NICARAGUA'S THIRD RANKING DAILY) OF LEON. IN A BALANCED AND GENERALLY POSITIVE EDITORIAL, EL CENTROAMERICANO COLUMNIST BENITO DARCE QUINTANILLA OUTLINED THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION ON WATERGATE TAPES. WRITES DARCE; "ALTHOUGH MANY PROFOUND QUESTIONS EXIST WHICH CAUSE US TO CRITICIZE...THE U.S., THERE ALSO EXIST...MANY ASPECTS OF ITS INTERNAL STRUCTURE THAT PROVOKE IN US A NATURAL LATIN ADMI-
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RATION." AFTER DESCRIBING HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THEROY

OF SEPARATION OF POWERS, DARCE ADDS; "UNDOUBTEDLY, WE CANNOT EVEN COMPARE WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE GREAT COUNTRY OF THE NORTH WITH OUR "FORMAL DEMOCRACIES" IN LATIN AMERICA WHERE THIS INTER-DEPENDENCY OF POWERS IS NULL AND NONEXISTENT IN REALITY." DARCE CONTINUES; "WE TREAT THIS (COURT) DECISION IN THESE PAGES WITH EXHILIRATION, NOT ONLY BECAUSE WE AGREE WITH IT, BUT BECAUSE OF ITS ORIGINS, AND BECAUSE OF ITS AFIRMATION WITHIN THE DOCTRINE OF SEPARATION OF POWERS OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE (SUPREME COURT) JUDGES." DARCE CONCLUDES; "THE CONGRESS NOW HAS ONE MORE ARGUMENT WITH WHICH TO BEGIN ITS IMPEACHMENT PROCESS..." ITEM. WUNDER, ACTING

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